

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 INRE-00 /041 W

-----038654 082200Z /66

O 082130Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 895

SECRET BRASILIA 7064

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS NU VE BR

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFM ON NICARAGUA

1. SECRETARY GENERAL (NO. 2 IN FOREIGN MINISTRY)

RECEIVED ME AT 5:15 P.M. TO DISCUSS NICARAGUAN SITUATION.

HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DECIDED SEPTEMBER 6 TO

ABSTAIN ON VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL CITING ARTICLE 18 AS BASIS.

BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN SO INSTRUCTED.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL WAS AWARE OF TRAVELS OF COSTA  
RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN CENTRAL AMERICA. BUT HE SAID  
FOREIGN MINISTRY DID NOT HAVE CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT THIS  
INVOLVED NOR OF REACTION AMONG OAS MEMBERS TO VENEZUELAN  
INITIATIVE. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NOT CONSIDERED WHAT  
MFM MIGHT DO IF ACTUALLY CONVOKED BUT FOREIGN MINISTER  
HAD LIMITED HIMSELF STRICTLY TO DECIDING THAT BRAZIL  
WOULD ABSTAIN ON INITIATIVE.

3. IN EFFORT DRAW OUT SECRETARY GENERAL I NOTED THAT  
RECENT EVENTS SUCH AS DEPARTURE OF SANDISTA GROUP TO  
PANAMA AND STATED INTENTIONS OF GROUP TO RETURN TO  
NICARAGUA SUGGESTED SITUATION HAD SPILLED OVER TO  
OTHER COUNTRIES. BECAUSE HE HAD EMPHASIZED CENTRAL  
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AMERICAN NATURE OF PROBLEM WE LAPSED INTO PHILOSOPHICAL  
DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER PANAMA WAS IN CENTRAL  
AMERICA AND CONCLUDED IT WAS BOLIVARIAN COUNTRY.

4. I CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WE VALUED BRAZIL'S  
OPINION AND ALWAYS LIKED TO CONSULT OUR BRAZILIAN  
FRIENDS AS WE STRUGGLED WITH OUR OWN POSITION. HE

THANKED ME FOR THE EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE. I LEFT IT WITH HIM THAT I WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEEKEND IF ANY THOUGHTS OCCURRED TO HIM.

5. COMMENT: BRAZIL'S POSITION IS HARD ON THIS ONE. IT WAS A VERY CORDIAL CONVERSATION BUT THE SECRETARY GENERAL STUCK STRICTLY TO HIS SCRIPT. THE ONLY HINT HE GAVE OF AN INTEREST IN THE ISSUE WAS HIS REFERENCE TO THE COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRAVELS AND THEREFORE THE IMPLICATION THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES MIGHT RESOLVE IT AMONG THEMSELVES. I DO NOT EXPECT ANY THOUGHTS FROM THE BRAZILIANS.

SAYRE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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